



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-25:035](#)

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Attachments: [Capital Improvements Update 09022025.pdf](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Councilman Hafner has asked us to bring forward Capital project updates. And, Craig, at this time, do you want to come forward? These are, I think he's done a good job here, and Craig will go over it a little bit about the explanation of what he's presenting to you all, but I hope you see the in-depth detail that what we're doing in the community of Jonesboro. And so, Craig, the floor's yours.

Engineering Director Craig Light said, thank you Mayor. Thank you City Council. I've handed out a sheet to each of you before the meeting. It has a list of our current projects. Some of them are from the Capital General Fund/Street Fund and some of them are grant funded projects. It's hard to separate those when you start making a list of everything that is going on. At the top of the page in front of you is the list of 2025 overlays. They are about a third of the way through the year. I know Steve Tippet and his department have been getting those roads prepped and ready for Atlas Asphalt to work on when they get back into town. Those will continue through the fall and try to get those done before the end of the year 2025 budget cycle.

The next, we move down to Miscellaneous Street Projects. This is the miscellaneous funds that are allocated every year. For this year it is about \$500,000. With that, we've done five Speed Table Project. Those are all completed. We don't have any more plans for 2025. We have a new prospects to 2026. We have created a policy and we are screening those against those policies to see if they actually warrant a speed table. Mayor Copenhaver said, Craig, if you don't mind, will you go over some of the criteria for the speed tables, for the community? Mr. Light said, I don't have that sheet with me. We're looking for a certain number of vehicles a minimum number of vehicles, in a range of, I believe, it is between 300 and 1,500 vehicles a day. That is

kind of the range of a street that would warrant a speed table. Speeds of less than 35 mph posted to speeds of about 25 mph, is what we are really shooting for with the speed tables. You start getting those faster speeds and higher volumes, the speed tables become more of a detriment to what is going on than a safety feature. We can definitely make that policy sheet available to City Council. I hope I got those numbers right because it has been a couple of days since I have looked at that. So, on the speed tables, those are the ones that are completed this year.

So far, we have completed the Creath Street lighting project. We have the lights for the Huntington section, from Union to Flint designed. That will be a 2026 Construction Project if we are able to get those funds in the 2026 budget. We've been working on the North Church HAWK Signal. It has been designed. We have ordered the equipment. The equipment should be arriving this month and we are hopeful that we will get that signal installed before the end of the year. That's for the Parker Park Community Center swimming pool. We are 90% or close to 90% of plans for the Southwest Drive/Culberhouse Pedestrian Improvements. That will be pedestrian accommodations at that intersection. And, then the Johnson Avenue Side-Path and Turn Lane Project, we did obtain the permit for that. It has been funded through the bond project. We're beginning the property acquisitions. There's eight properties that were touching. Most of those are temporary easements, but we still have to get those agreements in place. So those will be coming before you in the next couple of months. and they' coming lives.

Miscellaneous Drainage Projects, this year, we, the city purchased the property on North Main Street. We just completed the Meadowlark Drainage Improvements. That's over off of Aggie, in that area, Marzee Ann, Leslie Ann area. So, we completed the Olive and Vine streets, some drainage work over there with the capital funds. We're about to kick off the Maplewood Terrace Drainage Improvements and a re-study of the Butler Ditch Floodway out in the Industrial Park. And so, those are both slated to start this fall and hopefully be done by the end of the year.

On our Sidewalks, Side-Path Projects, we have completed the Madison Sidewalk Project this year. The Culberhouse Trail Project, there's about a two block section of that has stalled out. There's utility relocation work that is being done there. As soon as that utility gets out of the way, then they will go back over and finish that. And the Jefferson Avenue Trail Project, they are almost to Walnut Street. So, they have gone from Flint to Walnut Street so far since July. So, they are making a lot of progress on that. Again, that is one of the bond funded projects. Without that bond fund, we would not be doing that project this year. We've spent out our sidewalk money this year. So, we would be stopped without those bond funds.

On our Industrial Rail Projects this year, we completed the SwitchPoint Protection Project, the MLK Crossing Projects are under contract with Meadows Construction. We are waiting on ARDOT to actually give them the notice to proceed. ARDOT's contractor has to get to a certain point before our contractor can start. And we are continuing to work on the Trainfo Project. We've got our sensors out. They're communicating. This is going to be connected to the E-911 System. So that project continues, as I mentioned, we are getting some calibration on the censoring systems or the contractor is, trying to get the communications with E-911 established there. Then, we are finishing up the designs for the foundations for the digital message boards that are going to be out in the field so the motoring public can tell when the crossing is going to be closed before they can get there.

On the Grant Funded Projects, we have completed the Downtown to ASTATE project this year. We have completed the Melrose Sidewalk Project this year. The Abilities Unlimited, and the JET Bus Stop Project are now both under contract. We're having

pre-construction conferences with those this week to get those contractors started. I think there may be some delay in the JET Bus Stop because on the actual bus stops themselves are not going to be available until like December. And, so, there might be some hold on the when the construction actually starts on that particular project. On the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant, we're negotiating contract for that project. The Craighead Forest Park Motorized Trail Project, we requested permission to advertise from ARDOT. So, as soon as we get that, we'll advertise that project. The University Heights Trail, we still have two properties left to acquire on that. One of them belongs to Arkansas State. We have reached out to them. Unfortunately, the other one, I think is going to end up being a condemnation. That property owner is not willing to work with us. That will be coming forward to City Council, most likely this month.

Lacy Park Soft Surface Trail, was planning to have the 90% plans done by the end of November for that project for 2026 construction. The Marion Berry Parkway Multi-use Trail Project should have the 90% plans by the end of October. We've already gotten the comments back on the 60% plans. We are making those changes to that. There weren't a whole lot of items. I'm just trying to finish up some real details about the walls are going to separate the traffic from bicycles and stuff like that. And then then we will resubmit those to ARDOT for their approval. And, then, for the Safe for All, those are broken up into two categories. One is for the North Church, and other one is for Johnson. The Johnson, we are hoping that project will go to construction earlier than North Church. The lightning circuits should be easier to get done. We have a 10% plan review meeting this coming Monday on that. So, we are just now getting into the design of that with Garver Engineers. Council approved that contract in, I believe it was July. So, we are getting that one going.

And then a couple of the other projects is the Winter Wonderland Renovations. We should have the 60% plans from Brackett-Krennerich at the end of September. The Real Time Intelligence Center, the location analysis, I think we are shooting for a September 16th deadline to have that and we have been working very diligently on getting those numbers put together. And then the South Caraway Road Project, we still have two properties to acquire on those. And, those, we hope to have before Council in the next month or so. We looking at a utility adjustment on that, but we do see that one going to construction in 2026 assuming that CWL is able to adjust their facilities. Those are the projects that we have going right now. We have a few other ones, but these are the major projects. We're coming into September, usually at this time of year, we're not sure what next year's going to look like, but here we are in September, and it looks like next year is going to be very busy for us and the next couple of years. So, we are excited about that. When it comes to building and designing and building projects, it's nice to know that the funding going to be there. And, for a lot of years, we just never knew until a budget was passed what we we're going to get to do. So, we do appreciate you guys passing this bond back in July so we could really plan these projects out and get these things going. I'll try to answer any questions that you all have.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I've got a few questions. Craig, thanks for the update. Just a couple of follow up questions. I'm looking at the, I guess, the June financials, is the Capital Improvement Detail Projects. I just want to make sure I'm understanding this correctly like, on the University Heights Trail, you know, we've got one point basically \$2,000,000 of funding in there. That's where we're waiting on the two properties to acquire, and then we'll be able to get rolling on that pretty good? Mr. Light said, yeah, there will be some utility adjustments and then we'll still have to go through ARDOT's final approval of the bid plans on that. Councilmember Hafner replied okay. Mr. Light said, as you know, we discussed at the Connectivity meeting just two weeks ago about doing, changing that to a 10 ft. side-path rather than the Creath Street design. So, that may modify that a little bit.

Councilmember Hafner said, and then, I'm asking about some that have just been on here for carryover, but I don't see any activity on these June financials. So, the other one is the 50 spot parking lot out at Craighead Forest, that's still showing on here, but for some reason, I thought that was done, but it's still on this carryover list. Does anybody have an update on that? Mr. Light responded, I don't have that list in front of me to comment on. I know there was a parking lot that was built at the front of the facility and there was a second parking lot that I believe it was larger than that. It had about \$300,000 in it. Councilmember Hafner replied, yeah, this just had a 50 spot parking lot, \$381,574. And it seems like it's been on here a couple of years. Mr. Light said, yeah, so that one actually is. We have 100% design plans on those projects. We have discussed earlier this week about other priorities out at Craighead Forest that rank ahead of that parking lot project. And I believe there's some overlay money as well, and so the discussion earlier this week was, you know, really where do we want to use that money. The overlays, the Street Department went in and patched a lot of the pot holes that were developing out there. And, so, it kind of has been sitting idle to determine whether or not the best use of those funds right now.

Mayor Copenhagen asked, hey, Danny, do you mind coming forward and mentioning several of the projects that have been brought up for concern? The pavilion for one, and playground, another. Parks Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir. So, as you know, a lot of the pavilions and the playgrounds out there have got some age on them. And, so, we're evaluating some of those that needed to be taken care of. Currently, we had one pavilion that did come down. It's been removed and insurance is helping take care of it to get it back in place and it has been ordered. The pavilion next to it, we had inspections done. Craig and Tim both went out there and did inspections on them. We feel like that one is needing to be replaced. So, we're replacing it as well to make sure that we have safe pavilions for anybody out there that wants to use the park. Along with those inspections, the Rotary Playground, which is our largest playground, the most used playground in Jonesboro. It is now time to be replaced. And, so, we're looking at the evaluation of do we worry about moving that parking lot money over to it first and make sure because it is a higher priority. It is something that is really being used. So that's one of the things that we're looking at is, is putting the money towards something that we deem is probably more of a necessity right now? Councilmember Hafner replied, okay, yeah, it just seems like I said, some of this money has been sitting on here for a couple of years with no spending. So, I'd rather see it get used somewhere than just keep sitting here. But that's why I like these updates. And, Danny, while you're up here, like, once again, I'm going off of the June financials. Some stuff might have changed in July and August, but there were \$300,000 on the 2025 budget, along with \$1.4 million roughly in the Parks Master Plan, and the June financials still didn't show any activity. So, you know, do you have an update on how that money is being spent? Mr. Kapales replied, right now, we just had delivery of a playground at University Lions Park. The playground was put on the ground today and that's going to be, it will be our fourth inclusive playground for the City of Jonesboro, but our first inclusive on the North side of the town. So, it's a very, very nice park that is going into play. They should be here within two weeks to start installing that playground. So that's one of the first movements in, as you know, within the Master Parks Plan that was second priority location. First priority location is northeast side of town. That's under design right now. We're at 30% plans trying to move from 30% to 60%, but with that, there's a lot of conversation that's happening to make sure that we are, that we get that park done right over the northeast side of town. And a lot of that Master Park Plan money may go toward helping that park be built right when we do that.

Councilmember Hafner said, hopefully, when we get the July and August financials, we'll see a little bit more spending on some of this carryover funding, but I appreciate

the updates. Mayor Copenhaver responded, and Councilman, given that Allen Park update as well. We still have a structure to be added. Mr. Kaples replied, yeah, they are supposed to be here this week. Thank you Mayor. This week, Allen Park, obviously, we've had it open. We tried to get it opened before school started so kids could utilize the splashpad. But there were a couple things that hadn't been installed yet. Swing sets are going in at one end of the playground. And, then, there's shade structures and picnic tables and benches that the splash pad itself is getting the shade at the far end that way the parents will have a place to set under the shade while their kids are playing on the splashpad. And, then, from there, once those things are installed, we're going to go in and landscape around the edges of the sidewalk in certain areas and make sure that park is beautified.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, one quick question, maybe a little off topic. But you and I have talked several times Danny about like a rolling renovation for parks, and you mentioned the Rotary Park. What's the life expectancy of one of those parks? Mr. Kapales said, a lot of it depends on the location. I am going to say that one is an unfortunate park in the location that's it's in. It had the splashpad built higher than what it is and the splashpads that we have are not pass through. They're actually chemical. And what was happening was the water was being blown across that playground. And, so, you had that chlorinated water that was getting into the cracks of that playground. And, if you go in there and look, as I was doing inspection, I was finding rust within the joints of that playground which is where the concern really has come up. You can look at that playground from afar and be like, oh, it looks great. It's a great playground. But when you do a true inspection, you start realizing there's issues that you just can't overcome. And, so, as we change that playground and the splashpad, we're going to go through a pass through system so we don't have that chlorinated water that's going to be passing over that. But, you can usually expect a playground to at least be a 25-year playground to get you through on that system and in that playground, it was installed in 2005. So, we were getting close to it. It just was unfortunately being, it's an unfortunate situation. Councilmember Gipson replied, thank you. Mr. Kapales said, yes, sir.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Council, I might add, and I was going to mention in the Mayor's notes, on Friday, I'm going to meet with Jared Wiley, who is Executive Director of ARDOT. And, so we're meeting tomorrow, matter of fact, the team to prioritize and make sure that we stay on top of the ARDOT projects. To be quite frank, that we make sure that we're moving in the right direction with our HAWK light system. We still have one hang up there. We need to get that taken care of. So, these conversations are ongoing, but Jared Wiley's an ASU graduate. He knows Jonesboro and he knows Northeast Arkansas. And, so, that conversation hopefully will lend to keeping these projects on the forefront for Jonesboro. Councilmember Hafner asked, so while you're talking to him, are there going to be additional signs put up about the no trucks in downtown Jonesboro, like the truck route? Mayor Copenhaver replied, we can mention that. Councilmember Hafner said, I mean, I think there needs to be. I've seen like two little signs that don't seem like they give very much help.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, to back off of Joe's comments and while we have Craig here, Andy Shatley made a presentation to the Public Safety Committee about restriping Main Street. Where are we at on that? Is that coming. Mayor Copenhaver asked, has that come to committee yet? Councilmember Moore replied, he presented it to committee and the information and the engineer had the design work done. Is that coming straight onto the council because it'll have to have signs too that indicate that. Mayor Copenhaver replied, correct. We'll get it in committee. Mr. Light replied, no, it hasn't come to Engineering to move forward. I assume it's going to. Mayor Copenhaver asked, Craig, were there some outstanding from the design work on

that? Were there some outstanding requests? Mr. Light replied, there were some comments that we had during the Connectivity Committee meeting about whether or not we needed to include some green paint or not. On the plans, I have not talked to Martin Smith about what, if he intends to modify his drawings or anything. Yeah, it's chance more. Mayor Copenhagen said, we'll reach out to Martin, Councilman. Okay. All right. Thank you, Craig, I appreciate that.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Gibson asked that RES-25:109 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

[MIN-25:072](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 19, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 08192025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:106](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 W. WASHINGTON, PARCEL 01-144183-42300, OWNED BY LAUREL PARK, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,293,122.07

Attachments: [01. 100 W Washington Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
[02. 100 W Washington Billing Request.pdf](#)
[03. 100 W Washington Demo Invoice.pdf](#)
[04. 100 W Washington Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-122-2025

[RES-25:107](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1400 MERRYWOOD, PARCEL 01-144203-16200, OWNED BY TONYA R HINDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Attachments: [01. 1400 Merrywood Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
[02. 1400 Merrywood Billing Request.pdf](#)
[03. 1400 Merrywood Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
[04. 1400 Merrywood Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-123-2025

[RES-25:108](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH ROAD, PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [01. 1617 Rich Rd Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 1617 Rich Rd Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 1617 Rich Rd Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 1617 Rich Rd Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-124-2025

[RES-25:110](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3806 SCHOOL STREET, PARCEL 01-144272-16500, OWNED BY OLGA HERNANDEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [01. 3806 School Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 3806 School St Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 3806 School St Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 3806 School Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-125-2025

[RES-25:111](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [02. 1313 Pardew Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 1313 Pardew Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 1313 Pardew Council Notice.pdf](#)
 [04. 1313 Pardew Notice of Violation.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-126-2025

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:109](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3801 VICKIE DRIVE, PARCEL 01-144103-10700, OWNED BY SHARON R CALDWELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Attachments: [01. 3801 Vickie Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 3801 Vickie Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 3801 Vickie Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 3801 Vickie Council Notice.pdf](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to have RES-25:109 postponed indefinitely due to the property being under new ownership. All voted aye.

Postponed Indefinitely

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-25:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING ORDINANCE 24:037 WHICH ESTABLISHED AND CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR JONESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (JPS) CAMPUSES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:030 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-25:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:031 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM PD-M, MULTI-FAMILY USE AND OFFICE/SENIOR LIVING USE TO PD-M COMMERCIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3412 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN HILLS REAL ESTATE, LLC

Attachments: [Rezoning Application](#)
 [Southern Hills PD Amendment Pattern Book_R](#)
 [Block B Rezoning](#)
 [Block K Rezoning](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)
 [Minutes from MAPC.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:025](#) AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-032-2025

[ORD-25:028](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD SECTION 50-40 ENTITLED PARK RANGERS

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-033-2025

[ORD-25:029](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ CONCEPTS, INC. DBA BRIDGE STREET BREWERY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Bridge Street Brewery Private Club Permit Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, this is an area that has traditionally had a lot of problems. I used to live not too far from there. I used to use that area during the daytime. I wouldn't have gone through there at night, not walking anyway. Also, let me point out that it is near the bridge which is one of, this city has a shortage of overpasses over the railroad track. I think everybody here is aware of that. There aren't a whole lot of places you can cross, and we don't need to put a liquor establishment that's going to be causing problems at one of the few that we have.

Jason Willett, 1804 Starling, said, thank you. I'm here on behalf of SHJ Concepts doing businesses as Bridge Street Brewery. The non-profit has well over 100 members and was formed on May 15th of 2020. Of course, our location, which is in

your application, is just right literally down the street. So, I think many of you all can speak to any issues on the crime situation. We have Kalpesh Das, Junior Das, who many of you know who is an operator of some restaurants and has been in this business in the past, who is the applicant. Davy Carter, is the president. Ted Herget is the vice-president. And, of course, Junior is the secretary/treasurer. The charitable activities are to benefit the Downtown Jonesboro Association as well as the Arkansas State Red Wolves Foundation. But, it's an application for a microbrewery restaurant that's also a private club. So, I just ask for a good vote on the ordinance and if there's any questions, we can answer. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

First of all, I want to express my pride at all of the hard work that went on to making Paint the Town Red a fun and spirit event for all of us. And, especially, those who are really, really die hard Red Wolf fans. We here at the municipal building did our part pulling out all stops and showing our love for Arkansas State. As a part of our effort, showcase, however, ASU is supported by the city. We even unveiled some of our Red Wolf themed street signs that we have downtown and around the university. The Street Department made these in house and they did a wonderful job I might add. Our trolleys were heavily used last weekend, both by students and by people heading to the ballgame on the Red Wolf Express. We even had some SEMO fans had heard about it and used it, and I'm happy to report their ride back was somewhat somber, but at least it was efficient. For those who don't know, every home game, our trolleys run direct shuttles from downtown to the yard in front of the ASU football stadium. It's a great way to enjoy the game with a VIP transit, and that's what it's about. Let me see, Brian, you said you left your house at 5:05 p.m. and got on the bus, and you were dropped off in front about 5:25 p.m. right in front of the stadium. So, it's first hand usage. Carol, you used it too? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we did, it was very fast. Mayor Copenhaver said, the football team even got involved. They rode trolleys from Embassy Suites to the tailgate area for their pregame walk parade. Again, we're engaging with Arkansas State. There is no doubt that the closer the city and Arkansas State work and develop, it's a key role for our community.

Last week, I actually had lunch with Chris Pezman, the new Vice-Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics. And, we discussed how the city and university could grow our partnership. And, let me just tell you, it's off to a great start with Mr. Pezman. After this coming weekend's historic in state matchup is on our horizon, the Arkansas Razorbacks in Little Rock, our red wolves will actually host nationally ranked Iowa State right here in Jonesboro. So, I would really recommend that everybody get out and support our Red Wolves. I think this is the first time that I remember we've actually had a nationally ranked team coming into our mist. And Iowa State is playing Iowa, this coming weekend, so they've got a big ball game, maybe they'll look past us for the next weekend.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Governor's 250 Committee two weeks ago for an early planning session for our nation's 250th birthday next July. The committee is being headed up by Jan Zimmerman and the Executive Director Craig Rickert of the A&P is spearheading and planning for our celebration locally. It's early, but we look forward to working with Craig on making this important date a huge success. Now, Jan and many other members across the state have been entrusted to perform where the communities are working together, whether it's flyover opportunities, celebrating the 250th in a commemorative way, but doing it all in the same way for our communities across the state of Arkansas.

I'm pleased to tell you that progress is being made on several of our parks on special projects. We already mentioned them earlier. The new park in East Jonesboro is in its early construction planning process, and we're trying to stretch every penny in the layout to ensure that we get a great park, one we can afford. And again, a huge thank you to the Jonesboro Junior Auxiliary for their donation of \$100,000 toward the project. Your generosity will benefit Jonesboro's children for generations to come.

Our new playground equipment is starting to arrive on pallets at Lions Park, located in North Side Park. This will be another shiny new, inclusive playground with some features that will be new to our playground inventory like turf hills and crawl through tunnels.

It appears that cement work and some plumbing are underway at the Ridge Complex and the concrete could be poured in the very next few weeks. I don't know if any of y'all saw the update that was given to the A&P Commission, but some of the pool work has already constructed. Concrete, I think, will be poured actually tomorrow. They're catching up on that as we progress and they have caught back up due to the weather that was bad in May, so the progress of the construction of that is still on track for 18 months.

We're anticipating a great turnout for the Night of Bike rally this week, this month at Craighead Forest Park. We're anticipating hundreds of high school students and parents to roll into Jonesboro, to take on the rolling topography of our wonderful mountain trails.

As you heard from Mr. Light discuss earlier, we're continuing to lay down new asphalt on several roads. I think Craig, there were about, for those in the audience, there were about 12 projects on the asphalt, and obviously, Atlas Asphalt garnered that bid, and so you've seen work that they're doing on the state highways in the community as well. So, they are a great community partner. They are actively working on pedestrian side paths on Johnson.

On the private development end, I've spoken with multiple developers regarding the Turtle Creek Mall property. As many of you know, since the 2020 Tornado, this property has been in a slow creep through the legal process as a result of insurance claims, ownership transfers, and court appointed agencies. After working with the new owners on cleaning up the grounds and preparing it for the sale, it appears we are finally going to see that next step occur. Perhaps within a week and a half, investors will be bidding on the property. I've spoken to many potential parties regarding ideas and visions of what could be developed. And I'm looking forward to working with a successful bidder on the best offerings for our city, Northeast Arkansas, and our continued growth.

In addition, results of the Justice Complex inspections have yet to produce a definitive answer for a timeline for a solid resolution. And we are asking daily, aren't we, Craig? for that report. So, we'll put the pressure on them to get that to us. If the

building has any type of repair option, I'll get an estimate and we can decide on the next step. So, if we want to just go to another direction. Obviously, when we had to evacuate the building, we had to move quickly and move personnel to the fastest option for business continuity purposes until we had more information. Our next discussion will be what to do and what we want to do in the midterm. We are currently still using some rooms in the community centers. And, I would like to see us work together on a plan that is both efficient for police and fully reopens access to these areas for our community centers. We don't always get to make a choice, but sometimes we have to take the most necessary action to ensure safety. And with that being said, I certainly want our residents to understand that we are working diligently on longer term plans with the limited information we have so far. We will not jeopardize our officers or public safety, though.

As a reminder, I mentioned it during our last city council meeting, I have to point out the amazing mural on Cate Street Avenue, just off Main. It's now complete. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to park your car and stare at the beautiful artwork, not on Cate, park it in the parking lot somewhere. And the more time you spend gazing at it, you really need to look because you're going to appreciate a lot of the intricacies of the beauty of the mural. I want to say thank you to Dan and Casey Johnson for allowing this on your building once again, and thank you for your public art, the Public Art Commission, for your constant work, in building a beautiful city.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, thank you, just an observation and maybe a question if we can get answered not today, tonight, but just sometime. I was looking at the drainage projects and I wanted to know where we were on the Race Street/Nettleton area with that drainage being very bad in that area. And then, the road, and I don't know the name of the road, what's the new name, but it's where the overpass by the airport, and then we were connecting or going through the ASU spot to Aggie, just kind of where we are on that, and if that's even still on the books in maybe a year or two, and the costs. Mayor Copenhaver said, thanks for your comments. I know, Councilman, I believe Craig, the completion date on the overpass is around November. If I'm not mistaken, early part of the year, right? Yeah, we're getting there, but I'll get you the updates on that. Thank you, Councilman.

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yes, I would like to get a motion passed that we move the October 7th meeting to October 9th. October 7th is National Night Out where we give out free fish and so I'd like to put a motion on floor that we do that. Councilmember Chris Moore said, second. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, council, we do have a motion on the floor because of the National Night Out event. It's going to be actually held on October 7th. We will move the City Council meeting to October 9th at 5:30 p.m. ****(Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to move the City Council meeting and the Public Works Council Committee meeting from Tuesday, October 7, 2025 to Thursday, October 9, 2025 at their respective times of 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All voted aye.)**** Okay, thank you council. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, does that include committees? Councilmember John Street said, I think it was determined last time that we had that, the committees went along with the council meeting. Ms. Duncan said, perfect. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you council.*

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I've got something and I expect the same objection problem that I had with a similar issue at a city council meeting over 30 years ago. Over 30 years ago, they were discussing problems with traffic at Arkansas

State University and I decided to make a public comment that the biggest problem, best thing they do for traffic at Arkansas State University, was to get traffic off of campus that didn't want to be there in the first place. Back then, there was no crossing all the way from Bridge Street to what is now Red Wolf Boulevard, across the railroad track. Some things are expensive. Mayor Brodell said with my proposal, which my proposal was that there be a bridge built on the west side of the Arkansas campus to get people across the railroad tracks so they didn't have to go down Caraway. Mayor Brodell said that's going to take a lot of money. And my response was, I know, that's why we need to start planning for it now so someday the money will be there. Folks, somebody needs to take a look at Culberhouse. It's one of the old streets in town. It runs all the way from the south to the north or from the north to the south whichever way you want it, and there are places where it is very narrow. There are places where if you're pedestrian traffic has no place to go at all because there are places there is not even shoulder on that road. There's no sidewalk for much of it. We need to take a look at Culberhouse all the way from Lawson Road to Philadelphia Road, and see what we need to do to make it safe. I suspect that street has more bicycles than any other street in town. There are places in which there are literally hundreds of bicycles on that street at the same time and that leaves hardly any place for cars, much less anything else. I mean that's going to be a long thing. As I said, it's going to take a lot of money, but it needs to be looked at and plans start being developed so someday the money will be there and we can get something done. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk

